

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 59th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN ROSALIE (ROSIE) BUZZAS**, on January 10, 2005 at 1:55 P.M., in Room 102 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Rosalie (Rosie) Buzzas, Chairman (D)
Rep. Carol C. Juneau, Vice Chairman (D)
Rep. John E. Witt, Vice Chairman (R)
Rep. Tim Callahan (D)
Rep. Ray Hawk (R)
Rep. Cynthia Hiner (D)
Rep. Verdell Jackson (R)
Rep. Joey Jayne (D)
Rep. Christine Kaufmann (D)
Rep. Ralph L. Lenhart (D)
Rep. Walter McNutt (R)
Rep. Penny Morgan (R)
Rep. John L. Musgrove (D)
Rep. Rick Ripley (R)
Rep. Jon C. Sesso (D)
Rep. John Sinrud (R)
Rep. Janna Taylor (R)
Rep. Jack Wells (R)

Members Excused: Rep. Eve Franklin (D)

Members Absent: Rep. Bill E. Glaser (R)

Staff Present: Marcy McLean, Committee Secretary
Clayton Schenck, Legislative Branch

Please Note. These are summary minutes. Testimony and discussion are paraphrased and condensed. The time stamps for these minutes appears at the end of the content it refers to.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing & Date Posted: HB 1, 1/6/2005
Executive Action: HB 1-Do Pass As Amended

HEARING ON HB 1

Sponsor: REP. JOHN WITT, HD 28, CARTER

Opening Statement by Sponsor: REP. WITT, opened the hearing on HB 1 stating, "If you don't like this bill, just say so and we can all turn around and go back home." This bill appropriates money for the 2005 Legislature in regular session and for the start-up costs of the 2007 Legislature, with the total request being \$6,979,908. REP. WITT proposed an amendment to reduce this total to \$6,899,722 to correct an error made in calculating the cost of health insurance for Legislators and reflects the current staffing needs of the Senate and House and per diem for Legislators. The Feed Bill, as amended, is \$200,296 more than the 2003 Feed Bill, or an increase of 3%. Most of this increase is attributed to the increase in the cost of healthcare coverage for Legislators.

EXHIBIT(aph06a010.PDF)

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 0 - 4.1}

Informational Testimony:

Lois Menzies, Legislative Services Division, explained the amendment to HB 1.

EXHIBIT(aph06a020.PDF)

(REP. BILL GLASER joined hearing)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

REPS. MORGAN, RIPLEY, BUZZAS, and SINRUD asked questions of clarification. Ms. Menzies responded that Senate "Caucus and Start-up" costs are not one-half of the House's because they both have fixed operations costs. Until HB 1 passes, funding will come from the 2003 Feed Bill and when that is used, it will come from the Legislative Services Division budget. The amendment takes into account the staffing for an equally divided House, with two House leaders and a Speaker, which resulted in a need for additional money. There are the same number of House employees plus two new employees assigned to the Speaker. Health insurance costs increased \$342,000, or 12%, over 2003.

Closing by Sponsor:

REP. WITT closed the hearing on HB 1 stating he thinks the bill is fairly simple and straight forward and encouraged the committee to support it.

REP. GLASER requested a 10-minute break. Request was granted by **CHAIRMAN BUZZAS**.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 4.1 - 14.9; Comments: tape turned off during 10-minute break}

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 1

Motion: **REP. WITT** moved that HB 1 DO PASS.

Motion/Vote: **REP. SESSO** moved that HB 1 BE AMENDED (Exhibit 1). Motion carried unanimously. **REP. CALLAHAN** supplied a proxy vote for **REP. FRANKLIN** who is excused, and **REP. WITT** supplied a proxy vote for **REP. RIPLEY** who left early.

Discussion:

REP. WITT explained the 10-minute break was called because of a few concerns from his caucus. They met and discussed the bill and even though they have a few concerns, they are very comfortable with the Feed Bill at this point.

REP. CALLAHAN reminded the committee they will have another opportunity to see this bill again on the House floor.

Motion/Vote: **REP. WITT** moved that HB 1 DO PASS AS AMENDED. Motion carried unanimously (roll call vote). **REP. CALLAHAN** supplied a proxy vote for **REP. FRANKLIN** who is excused, and **REP. WITT** supplied a proxy vote for **REP. RIPLEY** who left early.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 14.9 - 20}

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 2:25 P.M.

REP. ROSALIE (ROSIE) BUZZAS, Chairman

MARCY MCLEAN, Secretary

RB/MM

Additional Exhibits:

EXHIBIT ([aph06aad0.PDF](#))